[redacted]

This document contains information referring to CORONA

4 December 1958

MEMORANDUM FOR: Deputy Secretary of Defense
Special Assistant to the President for Science and Technology

SUBJECT : Proposed Curtailment of Project CORONA

1. I have been kept advised of the more important problems that have arisen from time to time with respect to Project CORONA, and in particular I have been aware of the review of that Project and of the SENTRY Project conducted by the Advanced Research Projects Agency during the past several months. As of two weeks ago, I was given to understand that agreement had been reached among all concerned on certain minor changes in schedules which had a bearing on the cover explanation for CORONA but that in other respects plans for the Project remained firm.

2. I now understand, however, that the Advanced Research Projects Agency has proposed to cut the CORONA schedule by one-third in order to free for other purposes funds previously committed to this Project. One of these purposes is a new series proposed for Calendar Year 1960 as a follow-on to CORONA but using different equipment.

3. I am well aware of course that CORONA is being financed for the most part by the Department of Defense and that the availability of funds for this activity is bound to be affected by changes in the general financial situation and plans of the whole Defense establishment. It may well be that the proposed curtailment of the CORONA schedule is wise in the light of the many competing, high priority requirements for funds.

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Nevertheless, in view of the manner in which the decision to establish CORONA as a separate Project was originally made, I would like to suggest that we meet to discuss the status of this Project before the curtailment decision is finally made.

SIGNED

ALLEN W. DULLES
Director

cc: Director, ARPA
Asst Secy of the Air Force (R&D)

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